

VZCZCXR05077

PP RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH RUEHTRO

DE RUEHGO #0310 1260726

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 050726Z MAY 08

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7472

INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE

RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1114

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 4661

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8202

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5764

RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3631

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1516

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC

UNCLAS RANGOON 000310

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR USAID/OFDA, EAP/MLS, AND S/ES-O-CMS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID BM

SUBJECT: BURMA: CYCLONE NARGIS DISASTER ALERT

¶11. Cyclone Nargis winds hit Rangoon shortly after 0000 local time on May 3. The storm picked up intensity around 0200 local time until 0600 when the eye of the storm passed over Rangoon. From 0700 to 1030 local time, heavy rain added to the winds. Reports indicate that the storm also severely affected Irrawaddy Division, Bago Division, Mon State, and Karen State.

¶12. According to Embassy Officers, the storm brought down trees throughout Rangoon and damaged houses, cutting off communication, electricity and water supplies to much of the city. Burmese authorities here reported the number of dead at 351. We do not yet have information on the number of people injured and displaced.

¶13. Most Embassy facilities suffered some damage, but only two homes are uninhabitable. No mission personnel have suffered injuries as a result of the cyclone. Three quarters of the FSN staff came to the Embassy today. Most report missing roofs and lack of water and electricity from their homes.

¶14. USG assistance will depend on the willingness of Burmese government authorities to accept it. Shelter, water, roofing supplies, and fuel to run generators are immediate needs. Communication and electricity repairs will also be required. Health conditions can be expected to deteriorate as a result of water shortages.

¶15. We will advise when additional information becomes available.

VILLAROSA